

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

The following are capsule descriptions of some of the characters in *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*

The **NARRATORS** provide great opportunities for those who are more comfortable speaking than singing. The script is written to feature four Narrators, but we can adapt the roles to incorporate more students (or fewer) depending on the size of our cast. We will be looking for students who can enunciate and project, as they are key to the momentum of this beautiful tale.

BELLE is a smart, confident young woman from a small village. We will be looking for someone who is a strong singer and actress. Belle needs to be able to stand up to Gaston (and the Beast!) as well as those who don't seem to understand her, while being able to show compassion for her father, the Servants, and eventually the Beast.

Vocal Audition: "Belle," "Home," "Something There"

MAURICE is an eccentric, older inventor, yet more importantly, the adoring and protective father of Belle. This non-solo singing role is perfect for the student who can have fun interpreting this "crazy old man" while conveying some very strong emotions: fear and fatherly love!

The **BEAST** is the master of the castle who was transformed by the Enchantress's spell. Casting for size is not as important as choosing someone who can handle this complex character: a dictator, a hurt child, a hero, a defender and a smitten prince. We will be looking for an actor who can deliver a range of conflicting emotional states. While the Beast does sing a small bit during "Something There" and the "Finale," this is truly an acting role with no demanding singing required. It is absolutely possible to cast a non-singer as the Beast and have the student speak/sing his lyrics.

Vocal Audition: "Finale"

GASTON is pompous and dim-witted and will do whatever it takes to win Belle's hand. Gaston has all the confidence in the world, but lacks the humility to balance it. A strong singing and speaking voice and acting ability are more important than size and stature for this role. He has to be able to sell his big number, "Gaston," with gusto and arrogance as well as lead the troops in "The Mob Song."

Vocal Audition: "Gaston," "The Mob Song"

LEFOU is Gaston's equally dim-witted lackey. At some point we will audition Lefou and Gaston in pairs. This character needs to be Gaston's foil and should double the laughs for them both. Lefou should be able to sing, act and dance.

Vocal Audition: "Gaston"

The **SILLY GIRLS** are in love with Gaston and will do almost anything just to be near him. We will look for three girls who can portray the comic nature of these roles and who also enjoy playing off each other. The Silly Girls sing together in three numbers and their sound should mix well.

Vocal Audition: "Gaston," "Belle" (Reprise)

LUMIERE is a self-confident, charming, French maître d' who (under the Enchantress's spell) is becoming a candelabra. He has a never-ending give-and-take with Cogsworth, so the student playing Lumiere must work well with the person we cast for that role. We will also audition these characters in pairs. Lumiere should be a strong singer who can "light up" the stage in "Be Our Guest." If you can show us a great French accent, great! This role covers a range of emotions (from charming entertainer to brave soldier) and requires prominent song and dance, so we will try to cast a strong, reliable performer.

Vocal Audition: "Be Our Guest," "Human Again"

COGSWORTH is the English major-domo of the castle who is becoming a mantle clock. He, like all of the castle's Servants, shows a fatherly compassion for Belle yet is perfectly submissive to their master, the Beast. Cogsworth has two sides - he is a wee bit of a baby at times yet has no problem "getting into it" with Lumiere. We will cast a strong actor and singer who enjoys acting "in charge" and is willing to try a British accent.

Vocal Audition: "Human Again"

MRS. POTTS is the castle's endearing cook who has been enchanted to become a teapot. Mrs. Potts needs a strong, sweet voice and should be able to convey comforting, maternal qualities amidst the chaos that is breaking out at the castle. We will look for an actress who can portray a character whom every audience member would want for a mom.

Vocal Audition: "Beauty and the Beast," "Human Again"

BABETTE is the maid and "resident flirt" of the castle who is turning into a feather duster. She misses the finer things in life as well as just being a girl. Babette is happy to be at Belle's service at a moment's notice, but her true heart comes through in "Human Again." We will look for a good actor with solid vocal skills to handle Babette's harmonies.

Vocal Audition: "Human Again"

MADAME DE LA GRANDE BOUCHE is an opera singer who is becoming a wardrobe.

Madame is almost larger than life in everything she does, including her singing and dancing. We will look for that student who can portray the ultimate "diva with a heart" with a big personality and a big voice. Madame has some harmony lines with Mrs. Potts and Babette, so we will cast a singer who can hold her own, but also knows when to pull back in order to sound good with the others.

Vocal Audition: "Human Again"

CHIP is Mrs. Potts's son, who is becoming a teacup. We will consider casting a much younger performer for this role, but it is not imperative. Chip has a wonderful naïveté that endears him to all of the Servants. We will cast an actor who can portray the honesty and the spirit of a young person and is comfortable trying to sing Chip's few solo lines. If convincing, Chip will win the hearts of the entire audience.

Vocal Audition: "Human Again"

The **OLD BEGGAR WOMAN/ENCHANTRESS** should be an actor with the ability to be visually dramatic. Her transformation in the Prologue from the Old Beggar Woman to the Enchantress should magically entice all into the story. This is a non-speaking role.

MONSIEUR D'ARQUE is the dark, creepy proprietor of the lunatic asylum who adds more tension to the story. We will cast an actor who can believably interpret this sinister personality. While Monsieur does have a few lines of solo singing in "The Mob Song," this is primarily a non-singing role, so we will look for a solid actor first.

The **SERVANTS** of the castle can include Statues, a Dust Pan, Flatware, Plates, an Egg Timer, Napkins, a Carpet, Salt & Pepper Shakers and whatever other household items or kitchenware we may choose to cast in the show. These enchanted Servants are the "Rockettes" of their time. These students should be able to handle a potentially awkward costume while singing and dancing. We will look for good singers and dancers as they have two big production numbers to sell.

Vocal Audition: "Be Our Guest"

The **VILLAGERS** provide a colorful background singing throughout the show, and several also step into the action when needed to play in certain scenes. The featured roles vary in size and vocal requirements. The Ensemble will be needed to provide vocal power throughout the show and dance in the production numbers. These actors can double as the castle Servants if necessary.

Vocal Audition: "Belle," "The Mob Song"

